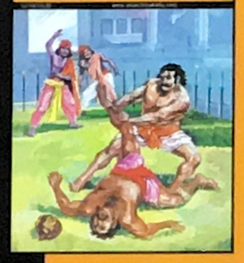
EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

SATI AND SHIVA

Only Sati could fulfill Shiva's exacting demands. As his companion she could match his ascetic ways as well as be a loving wife. Unfortunately, her happiness was overshadowed by an arrogant father. Sati countered Daksha's insensitivity with an immense, horrific sacrifice, which threw the universe into chaos and turmoil. As the heroine of this primeval romantic story she embodies the essence of a perfect spouse.

OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:



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SATI AND SHIVA

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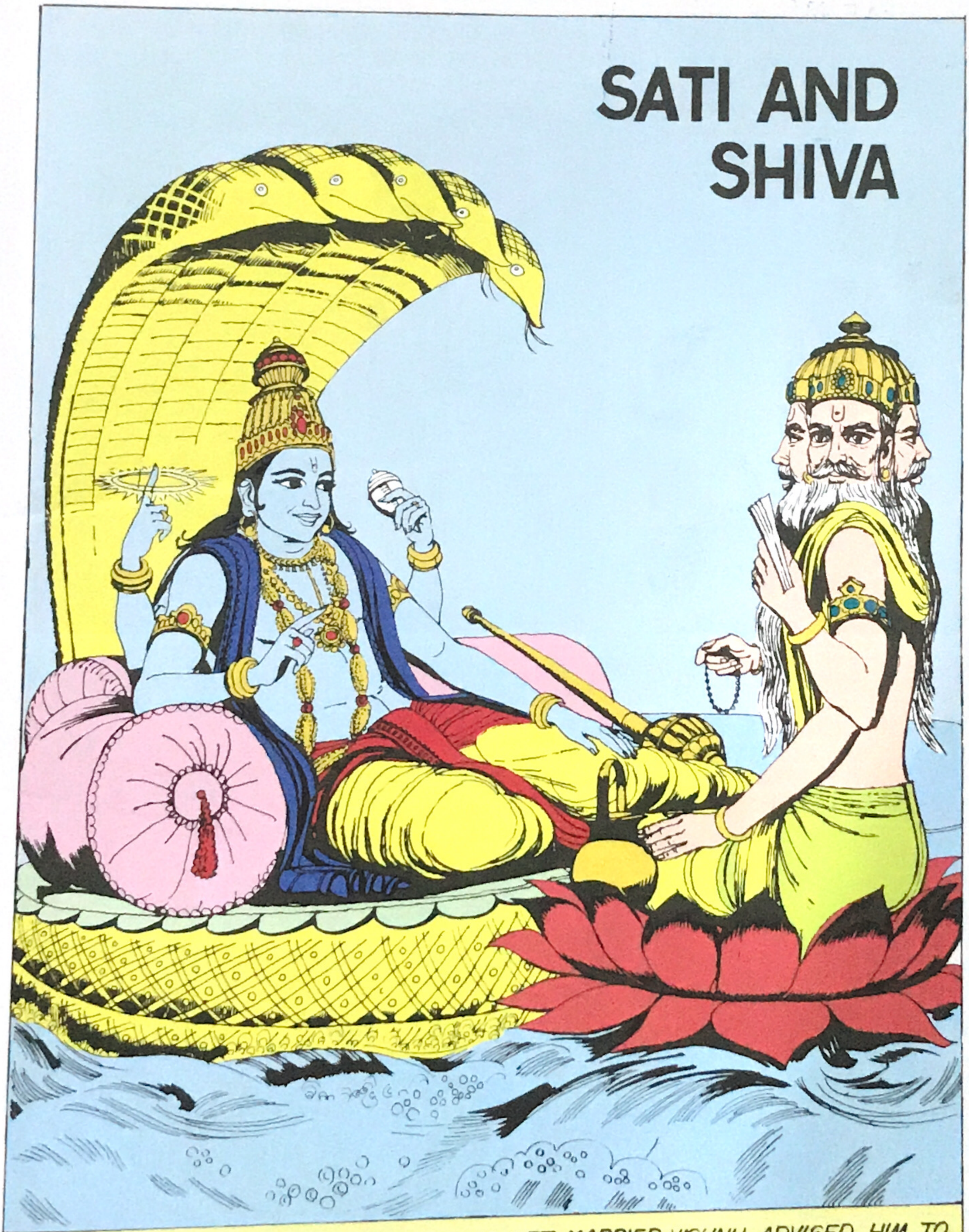
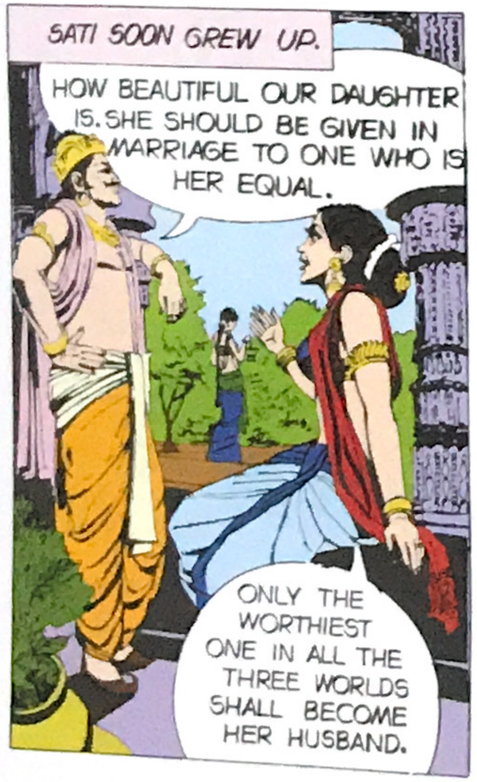
SATI AND SHIVA



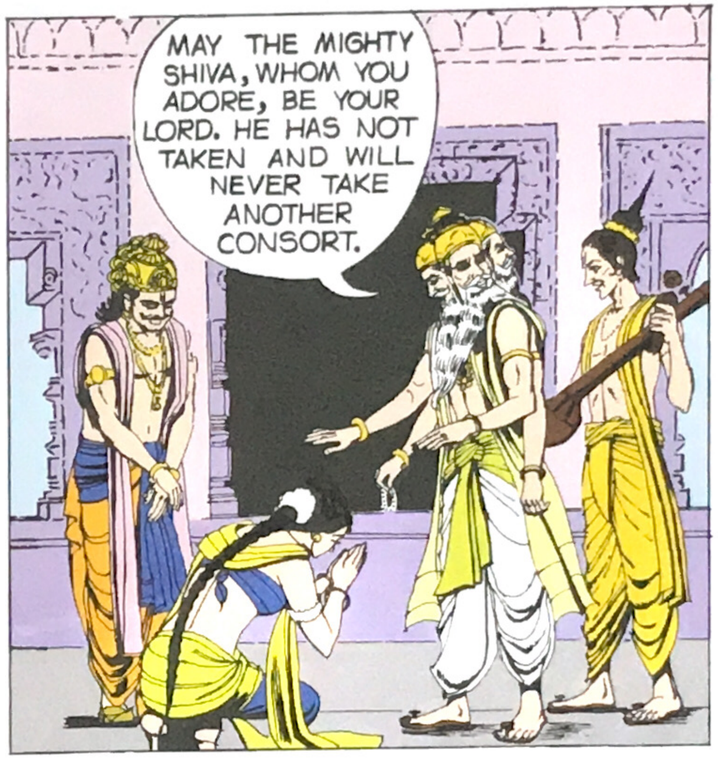
BRAHMA WANTED THE ASCETIC SHIVA TO GET MARRIED. VISHNU ADVISED HIM TO SERVE THE GODDESS UMA, BEG HER TO TAKE BIRTH ON EARTH, AND BECOME SHIVA'S CONSORT.

BRAHMA DID AS HE WAS ADVISED AND UMA WAS BORN TO HIS SON-THE CHIEF PRAJAPATI, DAKSHA.
SHE SHALL BE CALLED SATI.

EVEN AS A YOUNG GIRL, SATI WAS A STAUNCH DEVOTEE OF SHIVA.
WHERE IS SATI?
THERE. BUSY AS USUAL SINGING SONGS IN PRAISE OF LORD SHIVA.


SATI SOON GREW UP.
HOW BEAUTIFUL OUR DAUGHTER IS. SHE SHOULD BE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE TO ONE WHO IS HER EQUAL.
ONLY THE WORTHIEST ONE IN ALL THE THREE WORLDS SHALL BECOME HER HUSBAND.

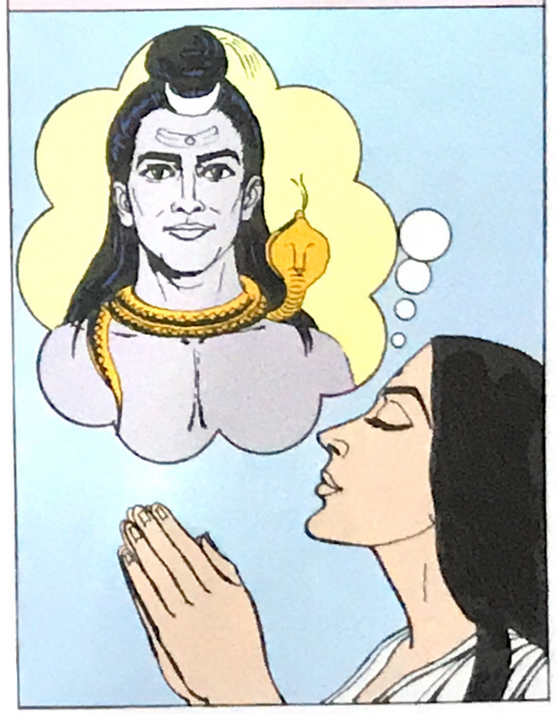
A FEW DAYS LATER, BRAHMA AND THE SAGE NARADA CAME TO VISIT DAKSHA.
MY CHILD, PAY OBEISANCE TO THE REVERED ONES.

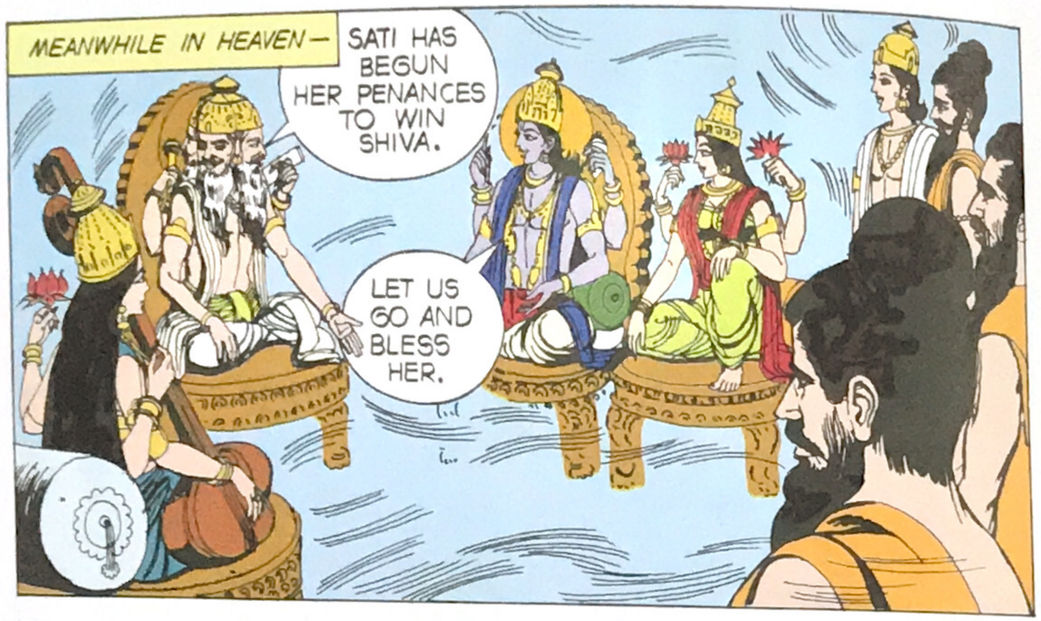

MAY THE MIGHTY SHIVA, WHOM YOU ADORE, BE YOUR LORD. HE HAS NOT TAKEN AND WILL NEVER TAKE ANOTHER CONSORT.

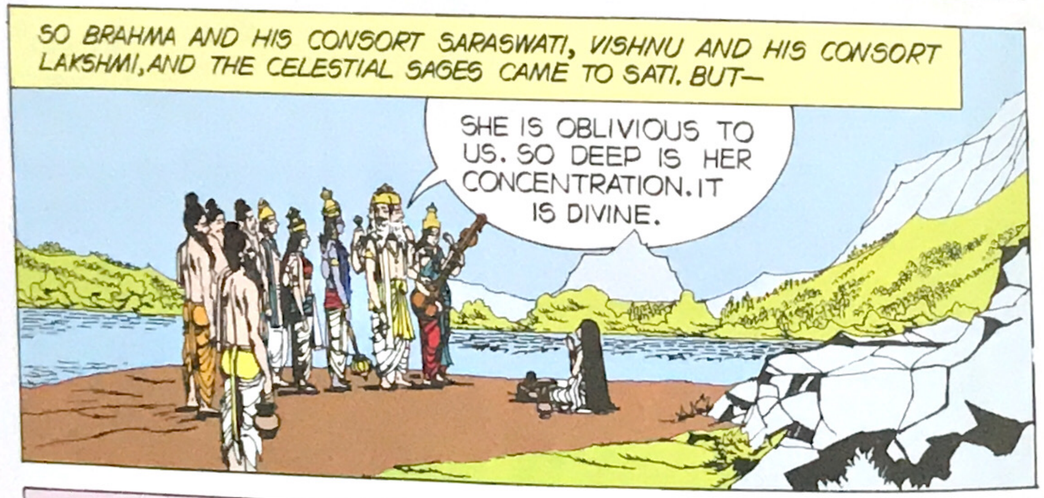
I SHALL PERFORM SEVERE PENANCES AND WIN MY LORD.

SHE BEGAN BY FASTING AND CHANTING SACRED MANTRAS.

THEN, IN DRIPPING WET CLOTHES, SHE WORSHIPPED HIM ON THE BANK OF A RIVER.
MY LORD, COME TO ME AND FULFIL MY DESTINY.


HER WHOLE BEING WAS CONCENTRATED ON SHIVA. SHE KNEW NOTHING ELSE.


MEANWHILE IN HEAVEN—
SATI HAS BEGUN HER PENANCES TO WIN SHIVA.
LET US GO AND BLESS HER.


SO BRAHMA AND HIS CONSORT SARASWATI, VISHNU AND HIS CONSORT LAKSHMI, AND THE CELESTIAL SAGES CAME TO SATI. BUT—
SHE IS OBLIVIOUS TO US. SO DEEP IS HER CONCENTRATION. IT IS DIVINE.

THEY WHO HAD COME TO BLESS HER SOUGHT HER BLESSINGS, INSTEAD.

THEN THEY WENT TO SHIVA.
O SHIVA, YOU TOO ACCEPT A LOVING WOMAN FOR AN ETERNAL COMPANION AS VISHNU HAS TAKEN LAKSHMI, AND I, SARASWATI.

SHIVA SMILED AND WAS QUIET FOR SOME TIME. THEN—
I AM WILLING TO MARRY. BUT I AM AN ASCETIC.

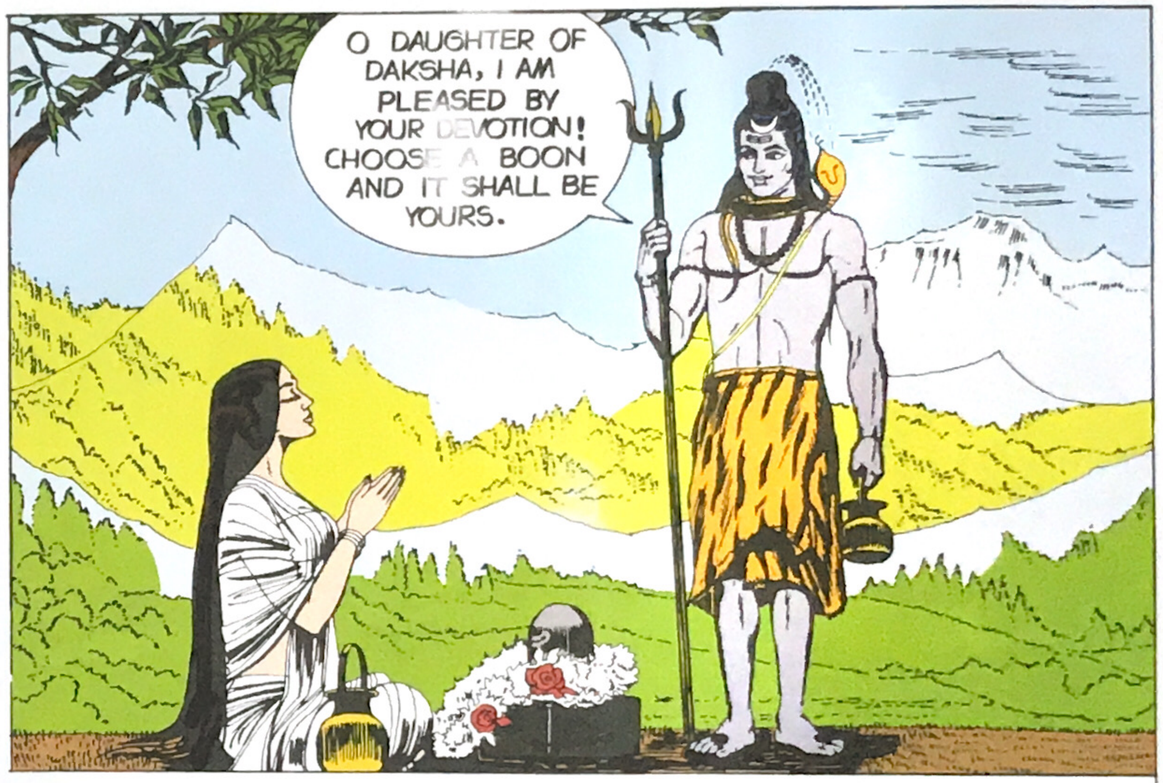
IS THERE A WOMAN WHO WILL BE A YOGINI WHEN I PRACTISE YOGA AND A LOVING HOUSE-WIFE WHEN I AM A HOUSEHOLDER?

BRAHMA WAS DELIGHTED.
O SHIVA, SATI, MY GRAND-DAUGHTER IS ONE SUCH.
YES SHIVA, SHE IS!

WHERE IS SHE?
AT THIS MOMENT SHE IS ENGAGED IN SEVERE PENANCES TO WIN YOU. HER CONCENTRATION IS UNSWERVING.

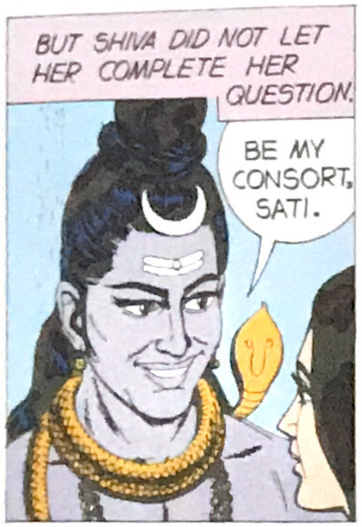
THEN VISHNU PLEADED.
O SHIVA, GRANT HER THE BOON SHE SEEKS AND MARRY HER.
SO BE IT!

THEIR MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, BRAHMA, VISHNU AND THE REST DEPARTED.
I SHALL GO TO SATI.

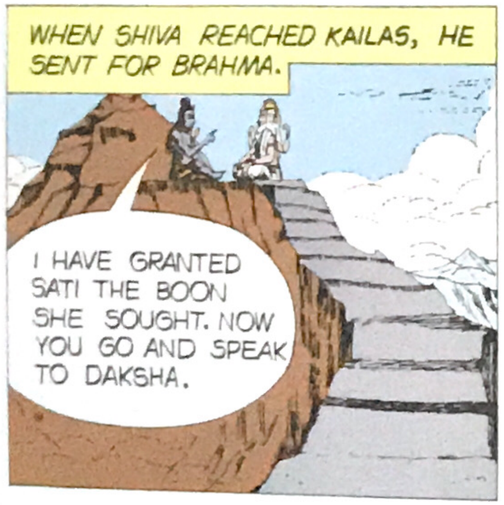

O DAUGHTER OF DAKSHA, I AM PLEASED BY YOUR DEVOTION! CHOOSE A BOON AND IT SHALL BE YOURS.

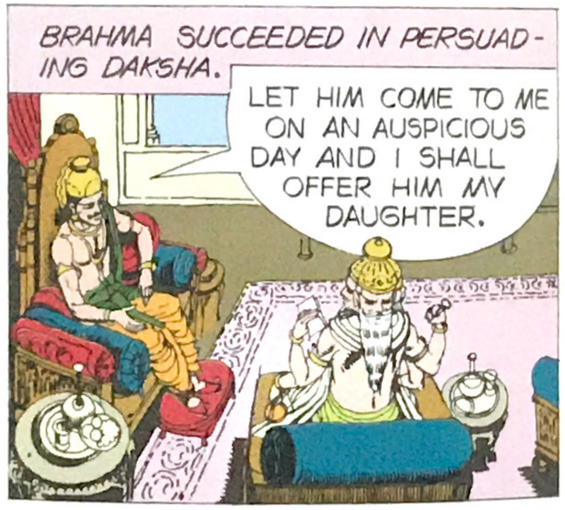
THOUGH SHIVA KNEW WHAT THE BOON WOULD BE, HE WANTED TO HEAR HER SPEAK.
HOW CAN I TELL HIM THAT HE IS THE BOON I SEEK?

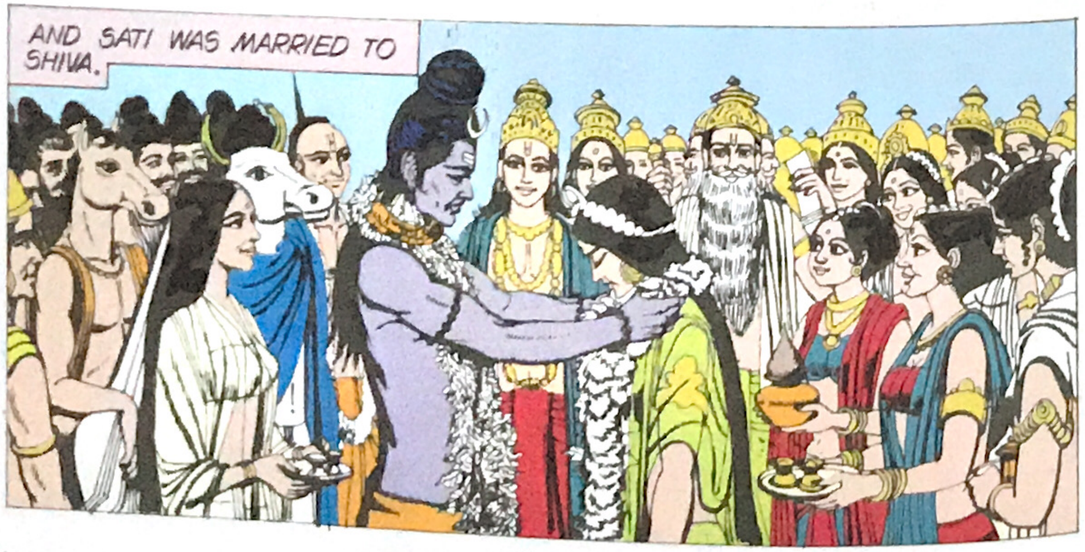
SATI HESITATED BUT FOR A SECOND. THEN—
LORD, WILL YOU...

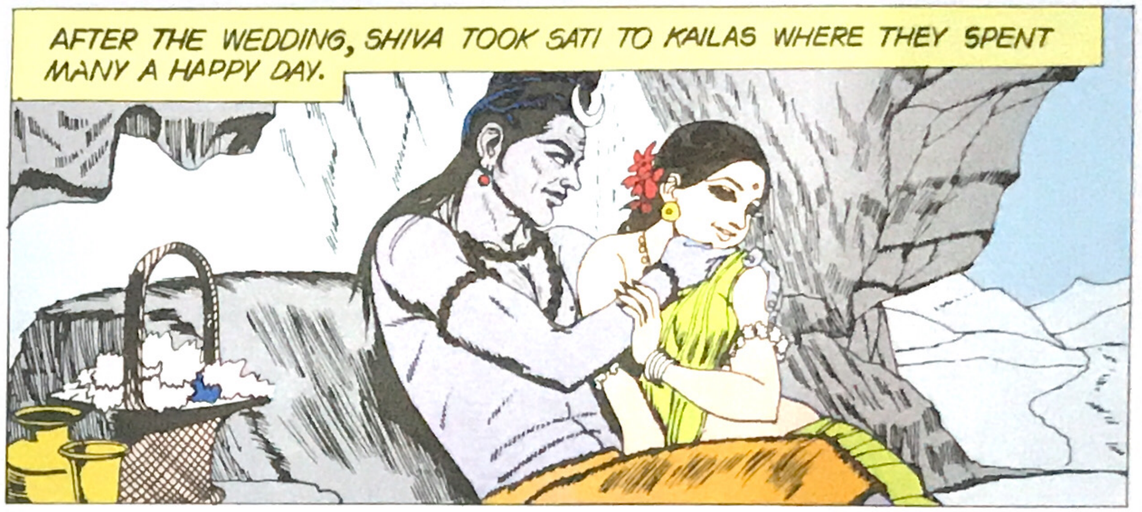

BUT SHIVA DID NOT LET HER COMPLETE HER QUESTION.
BE MY CONSORT, SATI.

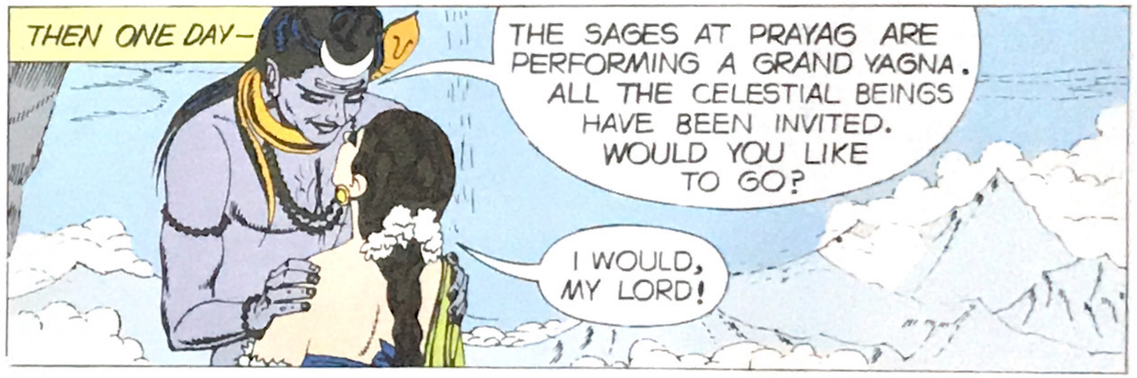
FOR A WHILE SATI STOOD SMILING SWEETLY AT HIM. THEN—
LORD, PLEASE TAKE ME WITH THE CONSENT AND THE BLESSINGS OF MY FATHER.
SO BE IT!

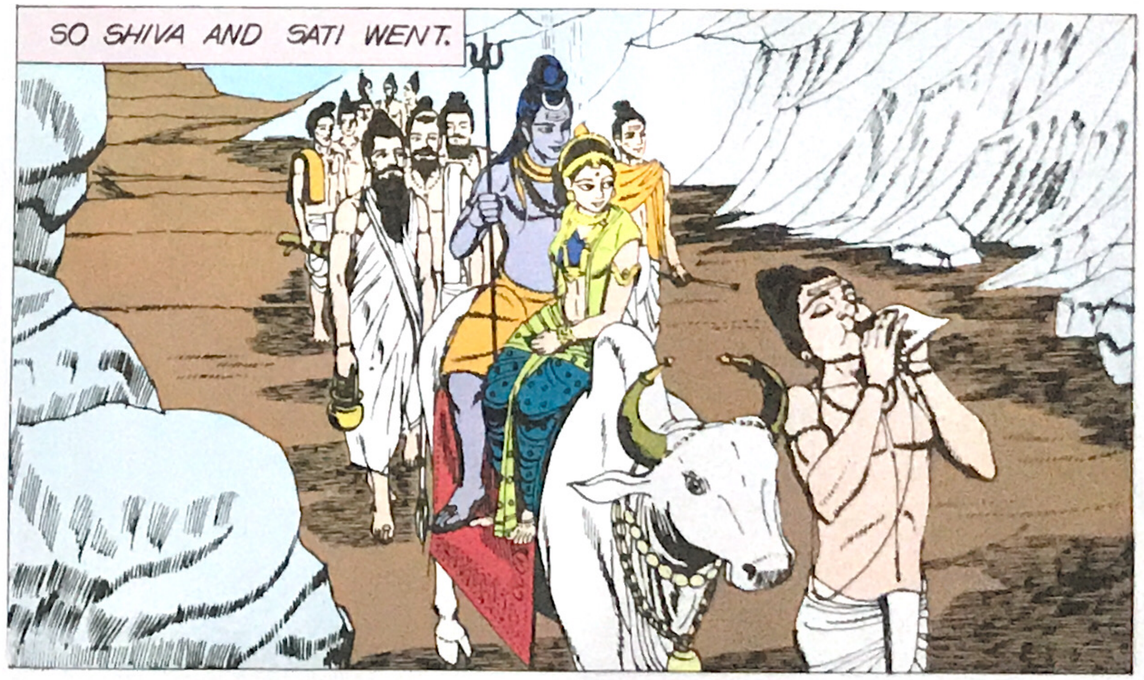

WHEN SHIVA REACHED KAILAS, HE SENT FOR BRAHMA.
I HAVE GRANTED SATI THE BOON SHE SOUGHT. NOW YOU GO AND SPEAK TO DAKSHA.

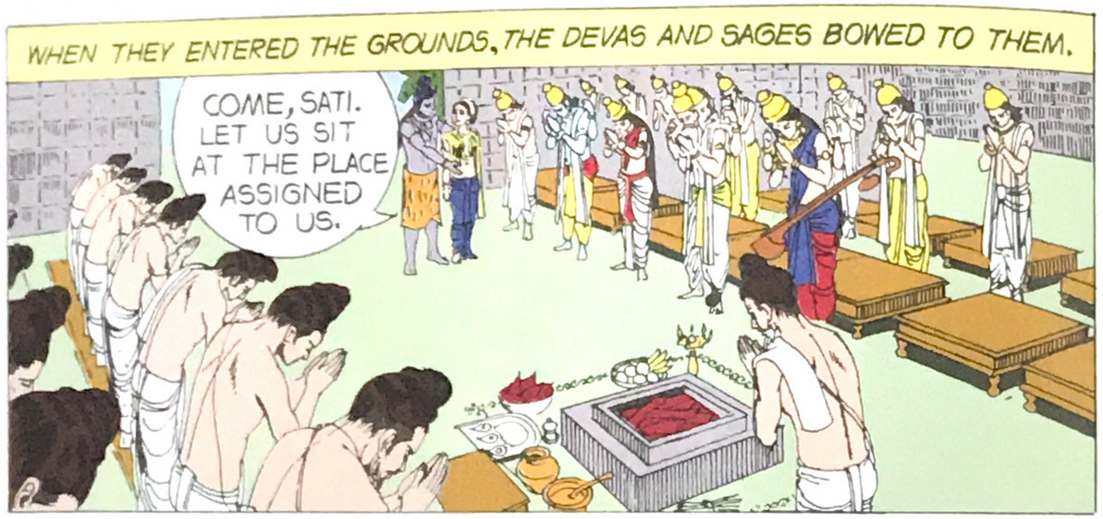

BRAHMA SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING DAKSHA.
LET HIM COME TO ME ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY AND I SHALL OFFER HIM MY DAUGHTER.

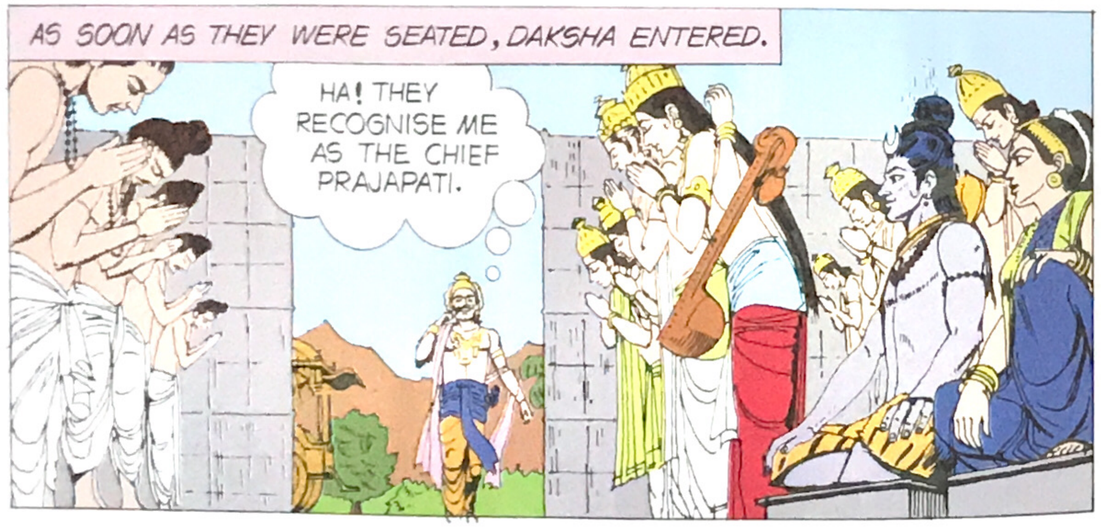

AND SATI WAS MARRIED TO SHIVA.

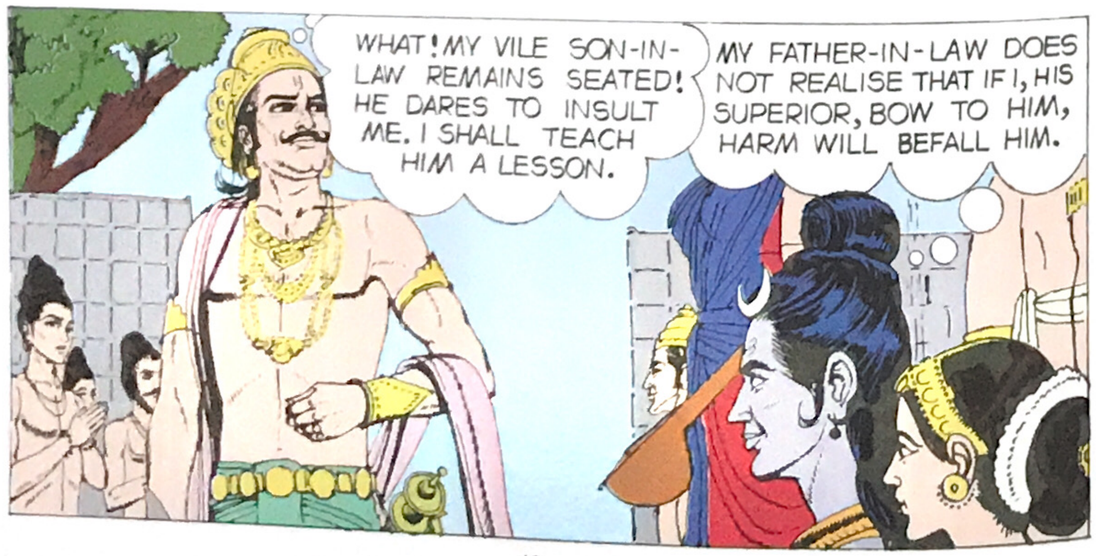

AFTER THE WEDDING, SHIVA TOOK SATI TO KAILAS WHERE THEY SPENT MANY A HAPPY DAY.

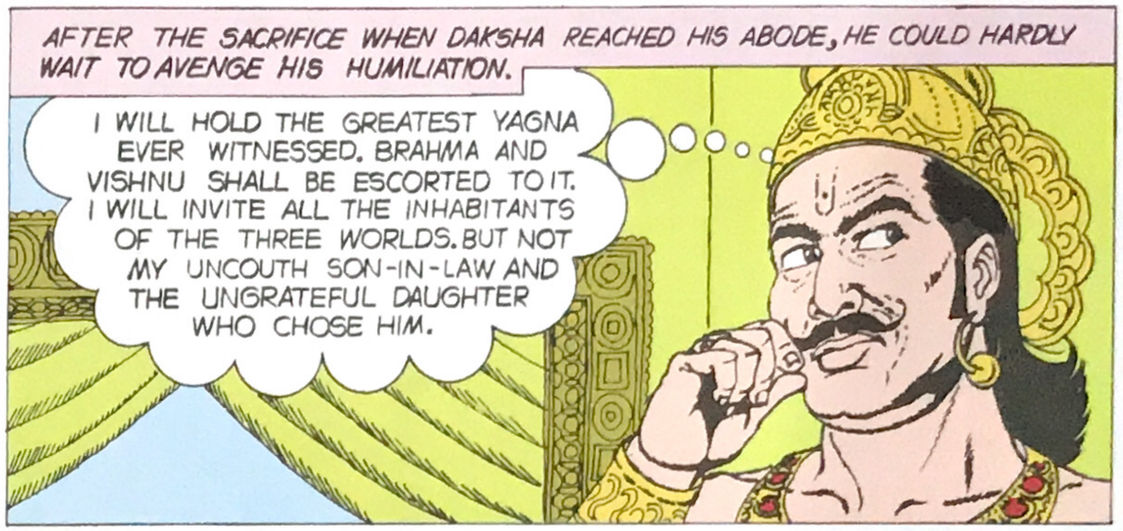

THEN ONE DAY—
THE SAGES AT PRAYAG ARE PERFORMING A GRAND YAGNA. ALL THE CELESTIAL BEINGS HAVE BEEN INVITED. WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?
I WOULD, MY LORD!

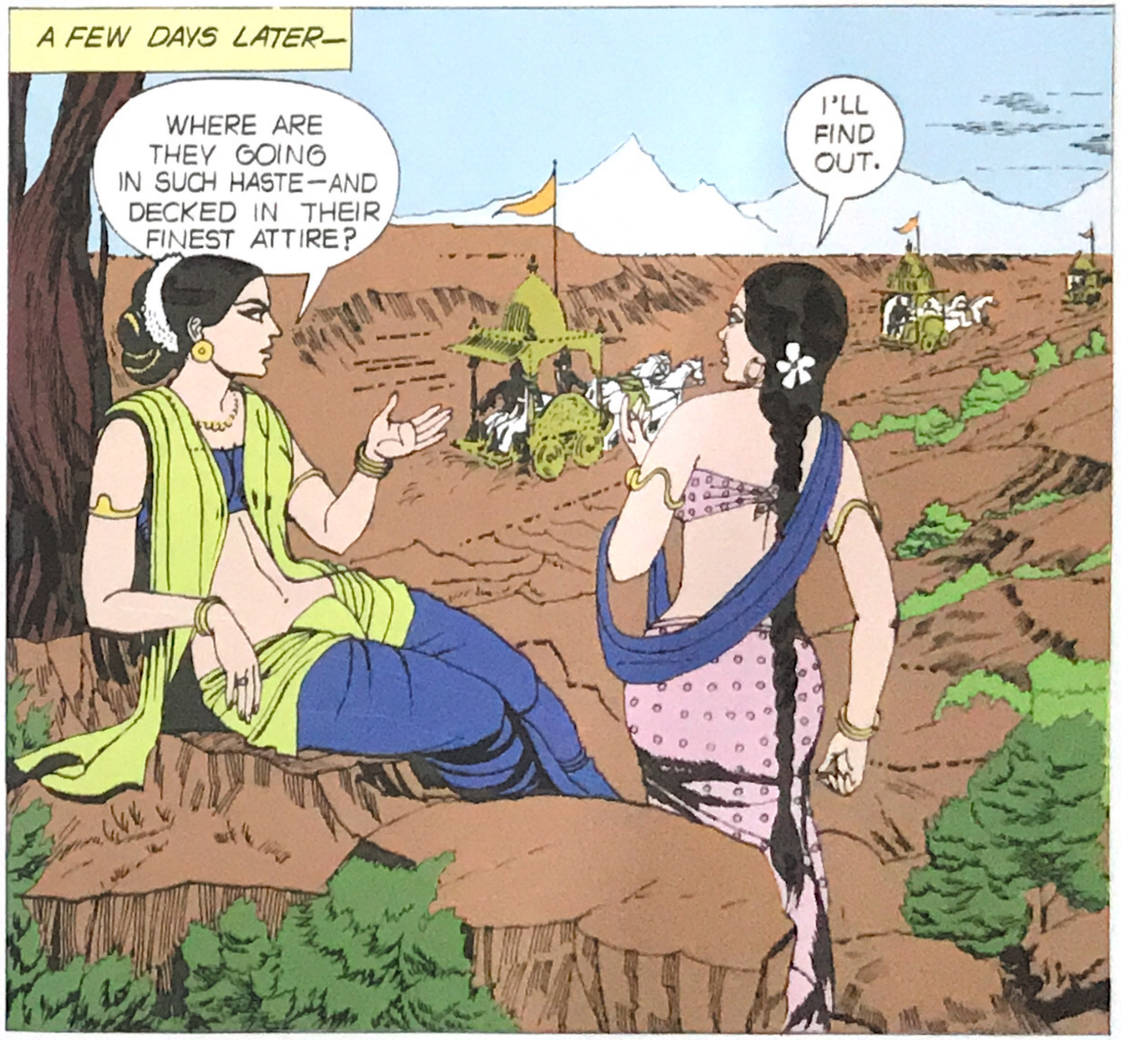

SO SHIVA AND SATI WENT.

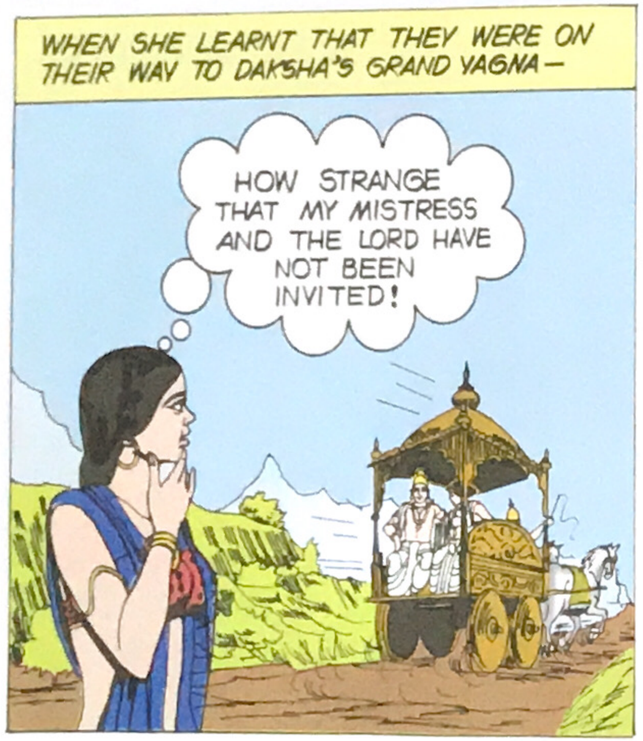

WHEN THEY ENTERED THE GROUNDS, THE DEVAS AND SAGES BOWED TO THEM.
COME, SATI. LET US SIT AT THE PLACE ASSIGNED TO US.


AS SOON AS THEY WERE SEATED, DAKSHA ENTERED.
HA! THEY RECOGNISE ME AS THE CHIEF PRAJAPATI.

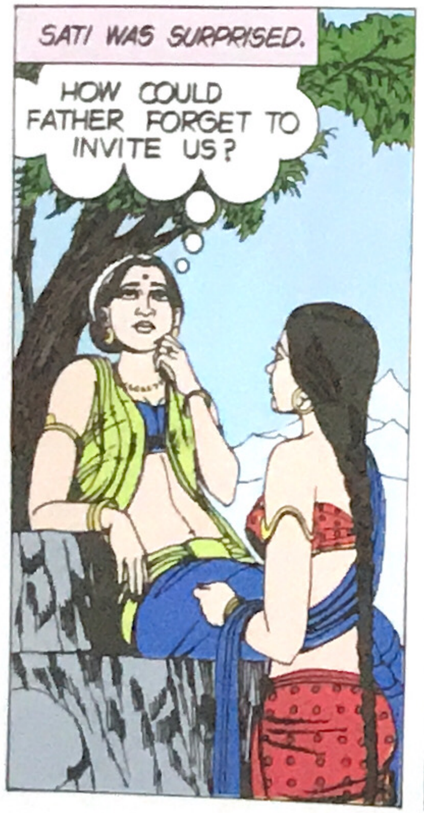

WHAT! MY VILE SON-IN-LAW REMAINS SEATED! HE DARES TO INSULT ME. I SHALL TEACH HIM A LESSON.
MY FATHER-IN-LAW DOES NOT REALISE THAT IF I, HIS SUPERIOR, BOW TO HIM, HARM WILL BEFALL HIM.


AFTER THE SACRIFICE WHEN DAKSHA REACHED HIS ABODE, HE COULD HARDLY WAIT TO AVENGE HIS HUMILIATION.
I WILL HOLD THE GREATEST YAGNA EVER WITNESSED. BRAHMA AND VISHNU SHALL BE ESCORTED TO IT. I WILL INVITE ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE THREE WORLDS. BUT NOT MY UNCOUTH SON-IN-LAW AND THE UNGRATEFUL DAUGHTER WHO CHOSE HIM.

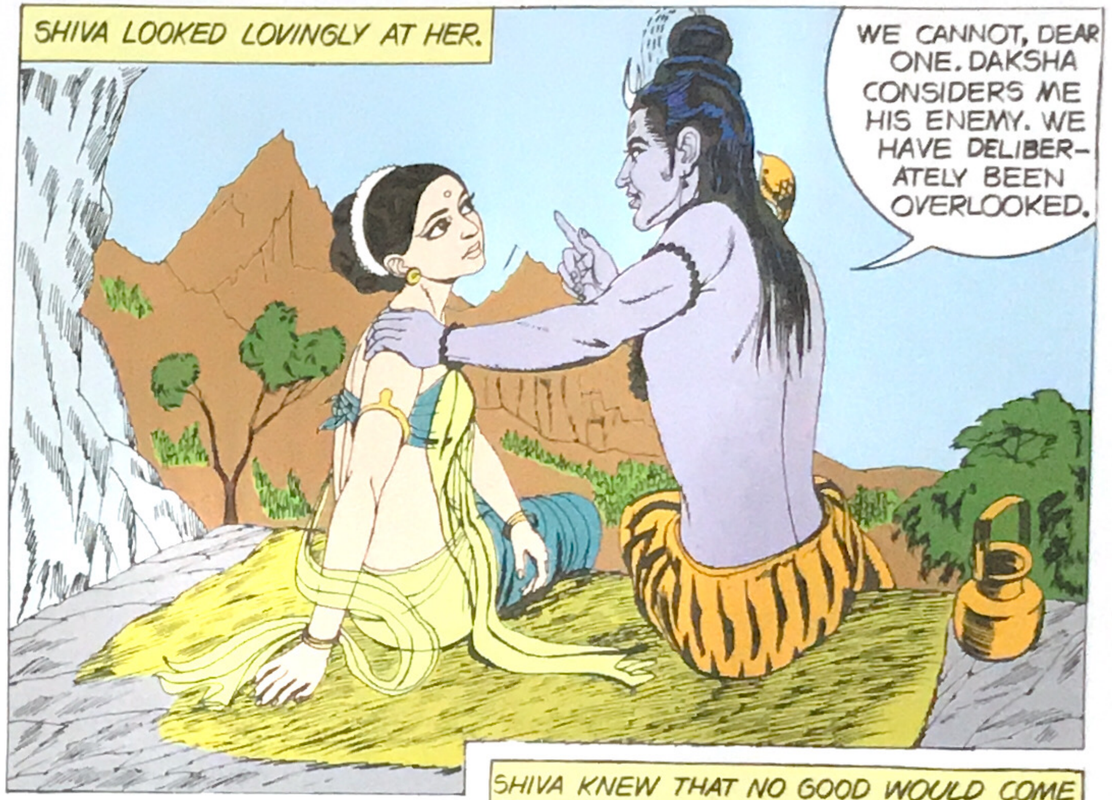

A FEW DAYS LATER—
WHERE ARE THEY GOING IN SUCH HASTE—AND DECKED IN THEIR FINEST ATTIRE?
I'LL FIND OUT.


WHEN SHE LEARNT THAT THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO DAKSHA'S GRAND YAGNA—
HOW STRANGE THAT MY MISTRESS AND THE LORD HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED!

SHE RETURNED TO SATI.
THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO A GRAND YAGNA, YOUR FATHER IS PERFORMING.
MY FATHER?

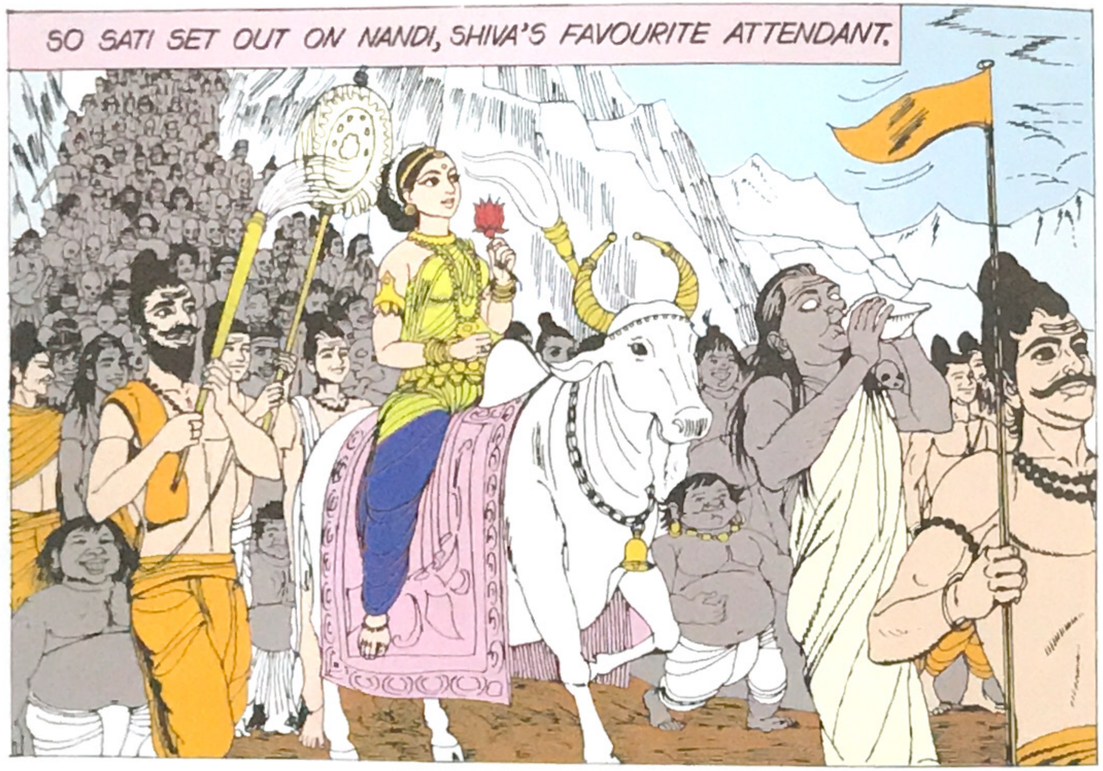

SATI WAS SURPRISED.
HOW COULD FATHER FORGET TO INVITE US?

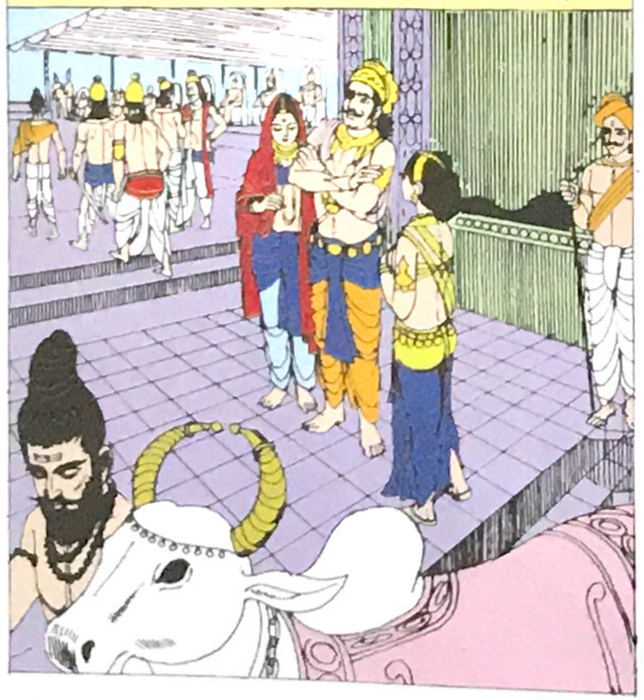
SHE WENT TO SHIVA AND TOLD HIM ABOUT THE SACRIFICE.
LET US GO TO MY FATHER'S SACRIFICIAL HALL.


SHIVA LOOKED LOVINGLY AT HER.
WE CANNOT, DEAR ONE. DAKSHA CONSIDERS ME HIS ENEMY. WE HAVE DELIBERATELY BEEN OVERLOOKED.

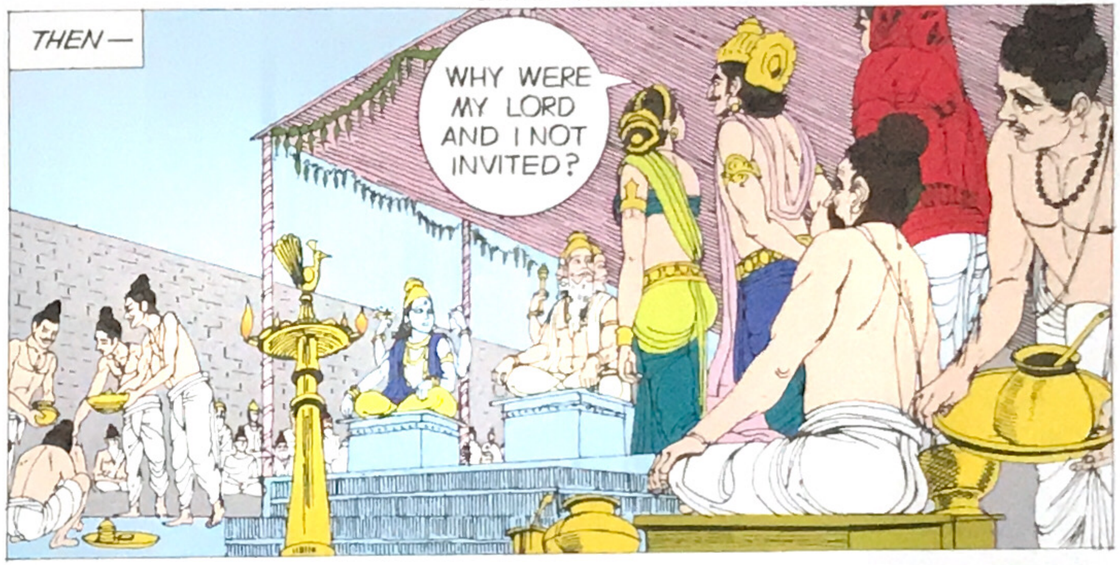
BUT SATI PERSISTED.
ALL THE SAME I WOULD LIKE TO GO.

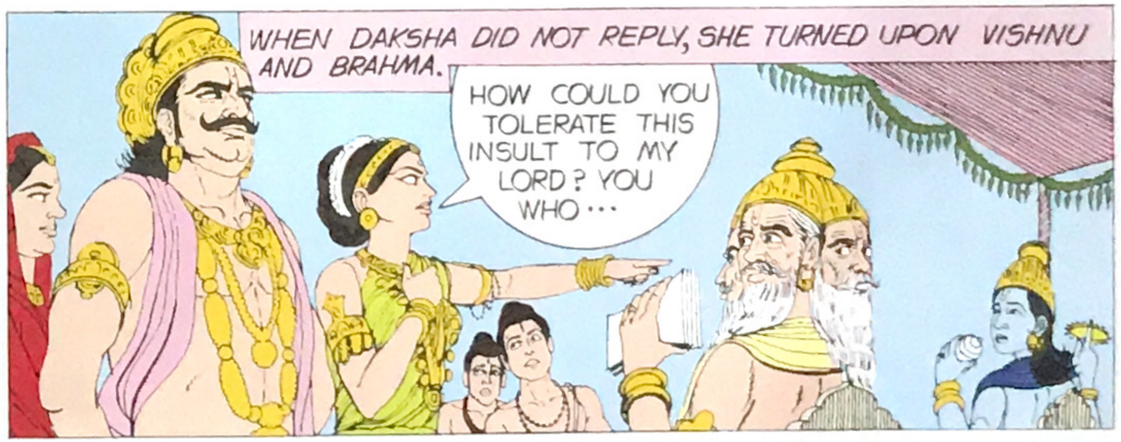
SHIVA KNEW THAT NO GOOD WOULD COME OF HER VISIT. BUT SHE WAS HIS EQUAL.
I WILL NOT COME. BUT IF YOU REALLY MUST GO, I WILL WILLINGLY SEND YOU—AND IN ROYAL SPLENDOUR. NANDI, MY ATTENDANT, WILL CARRY YOU THERE.

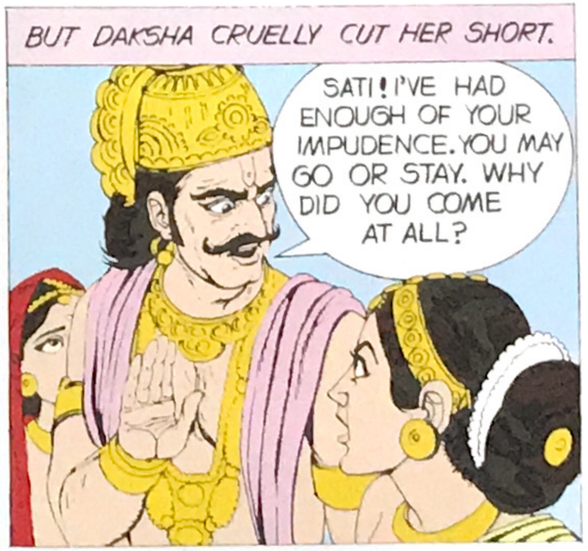

SO SATI SET OUT ON NANDI, SHIVA'S FAVOURITE ATTENDANT.

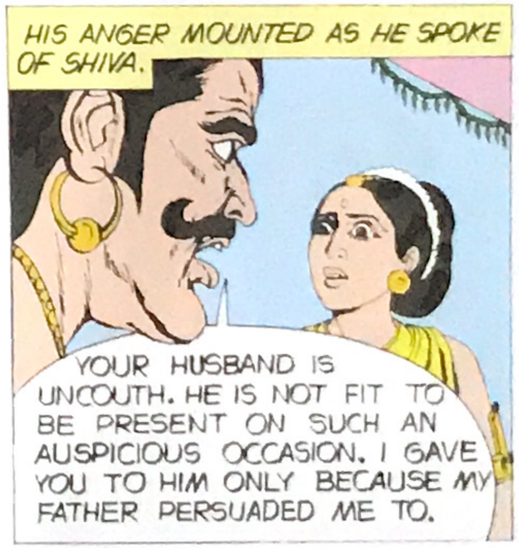

AT THE GATES OF DAKSHA'S ABODE, SATI DISMOUNTED AND WALKED UP TO HER FATHER. BUT HE IGNORED HER PRESENCE.

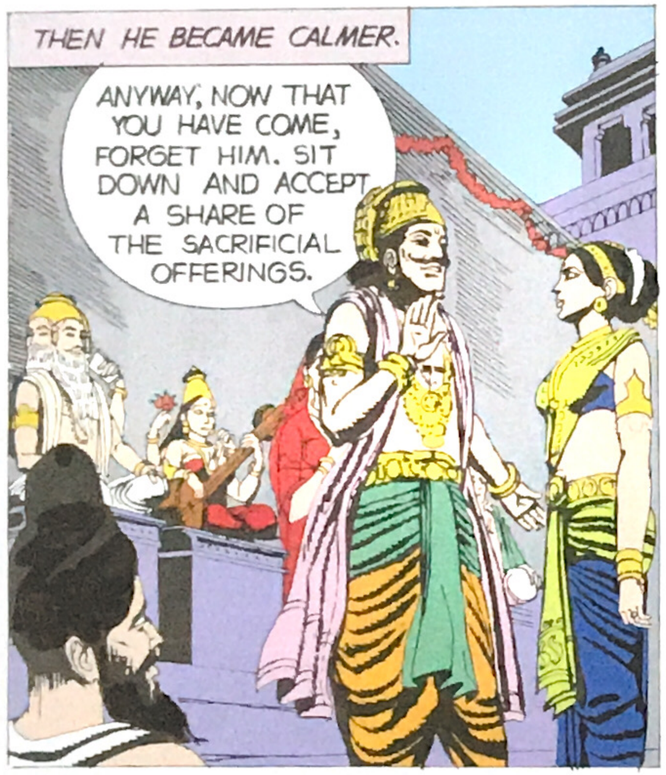
YET SATI, EVER DUTIFUL, BOWED TO HER PARENTS.


THEN —
WHY WERE MY LORD AND I NOT INVITED?

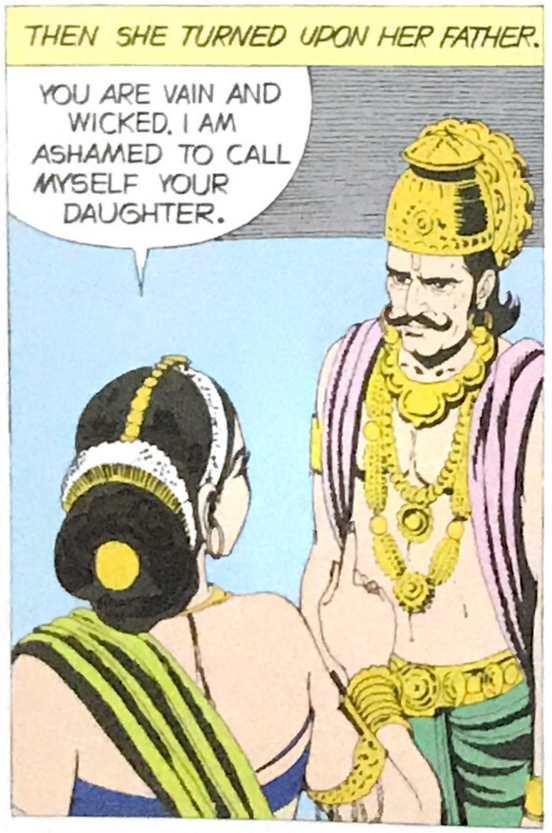

WHEN DAKSHA DID NOT REPLY, SHE TURNED UPON VISHNU AND BRAHMA.
HOW COULD YOU TOLERATE THIS INSULT TO MY LORD? YOU WHO ...


BUT DAKSHA CRUELLY CUT HER SHORT.
SATI! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR IMPUDENCE. YOU MAY GO OR STAY. WHY DID YOU COME AT ALL?


HIS ANGER MOUNTED AS HE SPOKE OF SHIVA.
YOUR HUSBAND IS UNCOUTH. HE IS NOT FIT TO BE PRESENT ON SUCH AN AUSPICIOUS OCCASION. I GAVE YOU TO HIM ONLY BECAUSE MY FATHER PERSUADED ME TO.

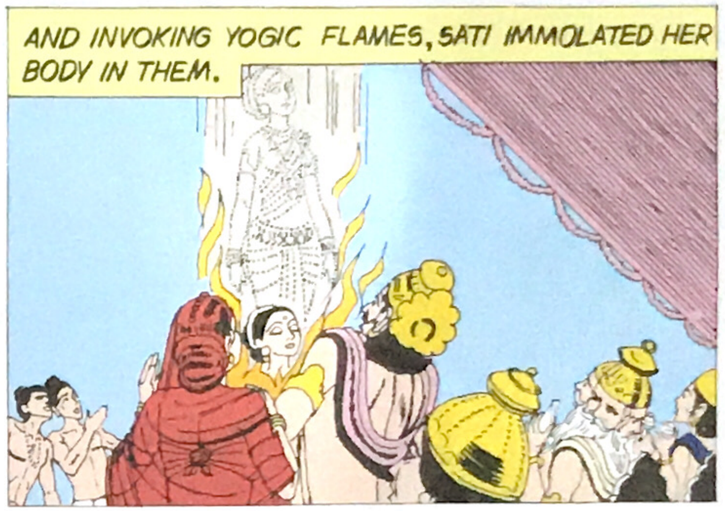

THEN HE BECAME CALMER.
ANYWAY, NOW THAT YOU HAVE COME, FORGET HIM. SIT DOWN AND ACCEPT A SHARE OF THE SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS.

SATI, FOR A MOMENT, STOOD SPEECHLESS WITH SHAME AND ANGER.
WHY? OH WHY DID I INSIST ON COMING?

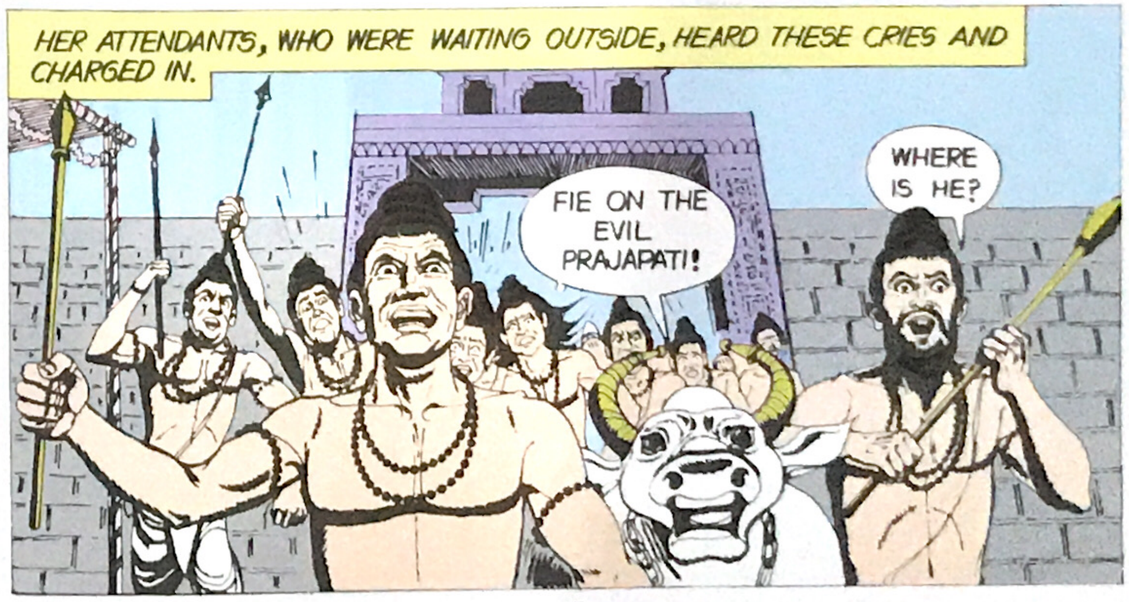

THEN SHE TURNED UPON HER FATHER.
YOU ARE VAIN AND WICKED. I AM ASHAMED TO CALL MYSELF YOUR DAUGHTER.

I WILL CAST OFF THIS BODY OF MINE AS A WORTHLESS CORPSE.

THEN, BECOMING CALMER, SHE FIXED HER MIND ON HER LORD.
MY LORD, I SHALL COME BACK TO YOU WHEN I AM RE-BORN OF A FATHER I CAN RESPECT.

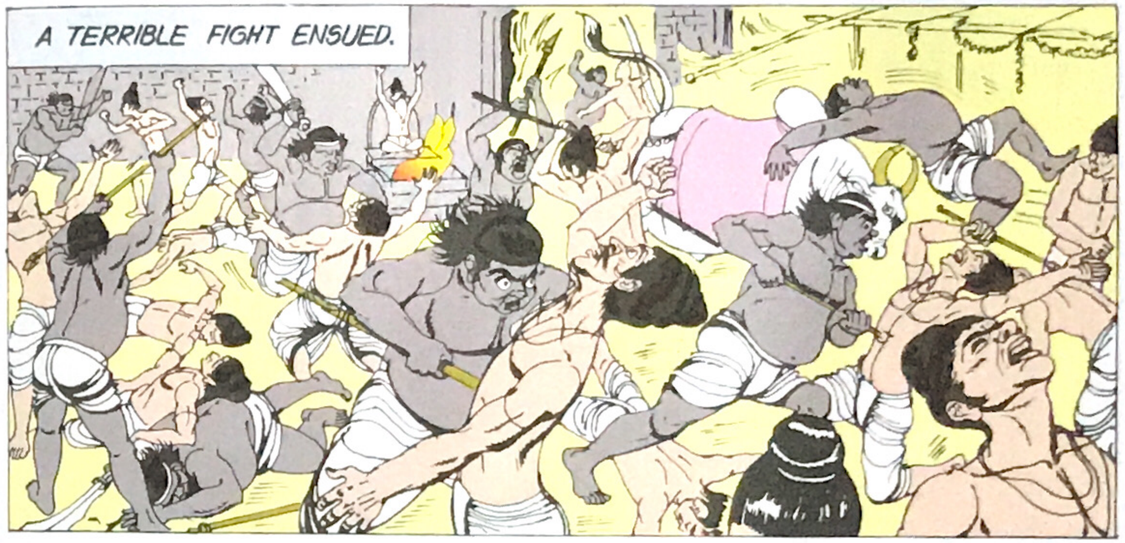

AND INVOKING YOGIC FLAMES, SATI IMMOLATED HER BODY IN THEM.

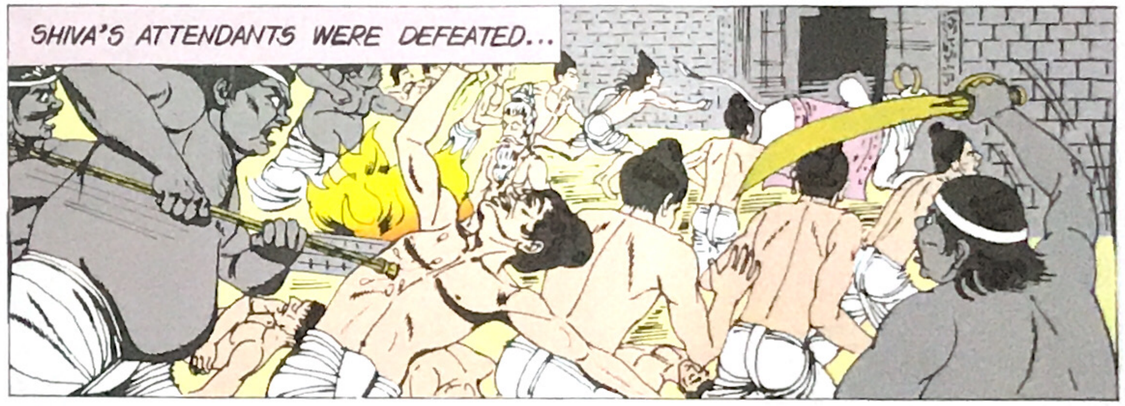
ALAS! SHIVA'S BELOVED HAS GIVEN UP HER BODY.
ALAS!
ALAS!
CRUEL DAKSHA WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THIS.

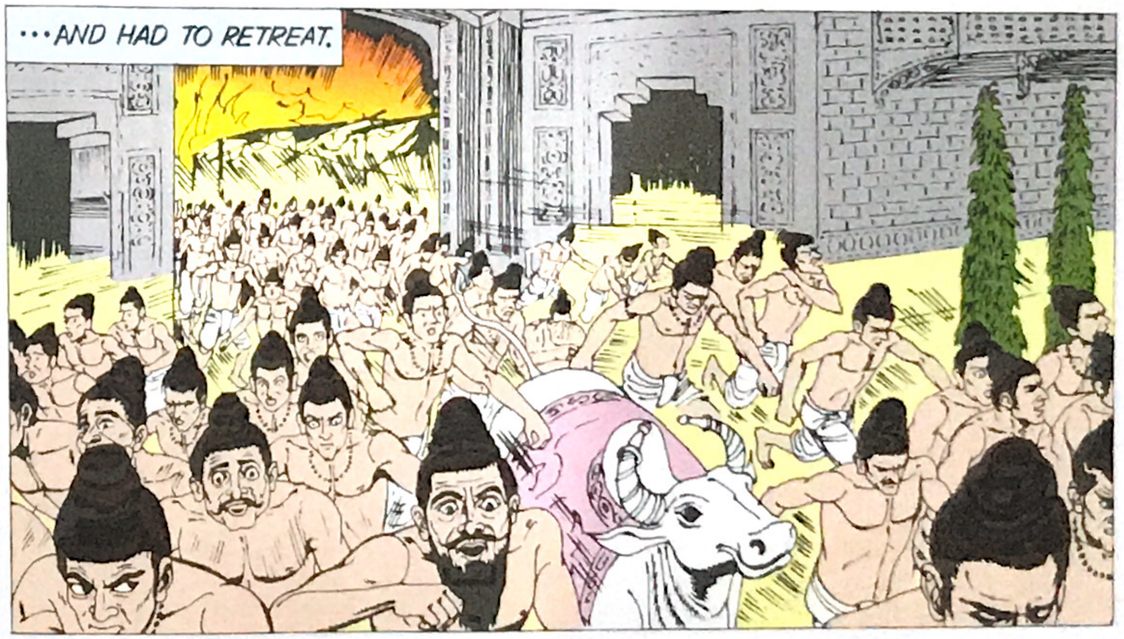

HER ATTENDANTS, WHO WERE WAITING OUTSIDE, HEARD THESE CRIES AND CHARGED IN.
FIE ON THE EVIL PRAJAPATI!
WHERE IS HE?

THEY RUSHED TOWARDS DAKSHA.
DON'T SPARE A HAIR ON HIS HEAD.

BUT THE SAGE, BHRIGU, IMMEDIATELY POURED OFFERINGS INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE...
... AND INVOKED THOUSANDS OF POWERFUL DEMONS.


A TERRIBLE FIGHT ENSUED.


SHIVA'S ATTENDANTS WERE DEFEATED...


...AND HAD TO RETREAT.

WHEN THEY REACHED KAILAS—

O LORD, THE WICKED DAKSHA HUMILIATED SATI AND SPOKE ILL OF YOU.

SATI BECAME ANGRY. AFTER CENSURING HER FATHER SHE BURNT UP HER BODY.

WE BECAME INFURIATED AND ATTACKED BUT WERE ROUTED BY BHRIGU'S DEMONS.

SHIVA WAS FURIOUS.

HE PLUCKED OUT A CLUSTER OF HIS MATTED HAIR AND···

···DASHED IT TO THE GROUND.

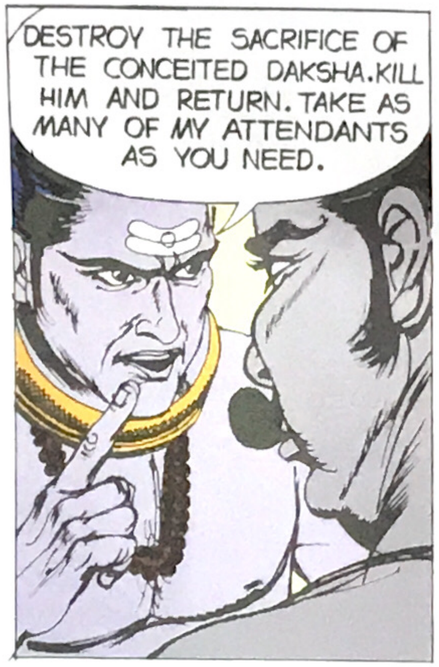
BOOM

THE CLUSTER SPLIT IN TWO.

FROM ONE HALF AROSE THE POWERFUL VIRABHADRA AND···

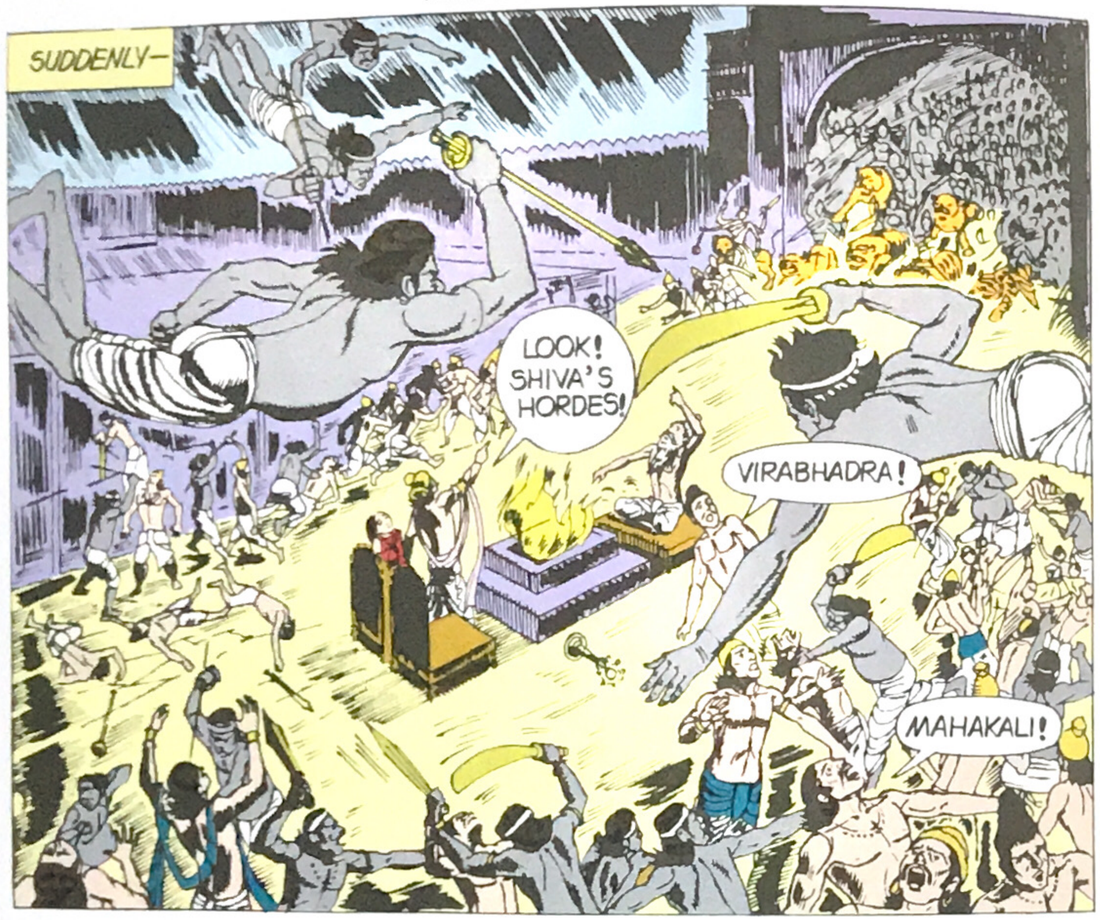
···FROM THE OTHER THE TERRIBLE MAHAKALI.

LORD, COMMAND ME QUICKLY! WHAT AM I TO DO?
MAY VICTORY BE YOURS.


DESTROY THE SACRIFICE OF THE CONCEITED DAKSHA. KILL HIM AND RETURN. TAKE AS MANY OF MY ATTENDANTS AS YOU NEED.

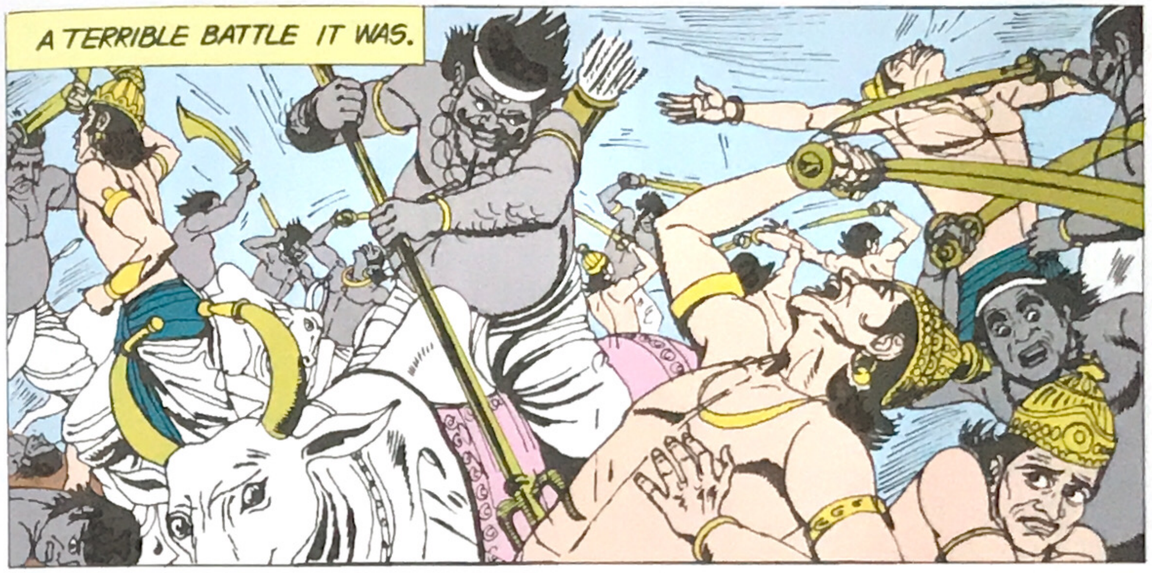
EAGER TO CARRY OUT THE COMMAND, VIRABHADRA SET OFF AT ONCE FOR DAKSHA'S ABODE WITH MAHAKALI LEADING THE HORDES.

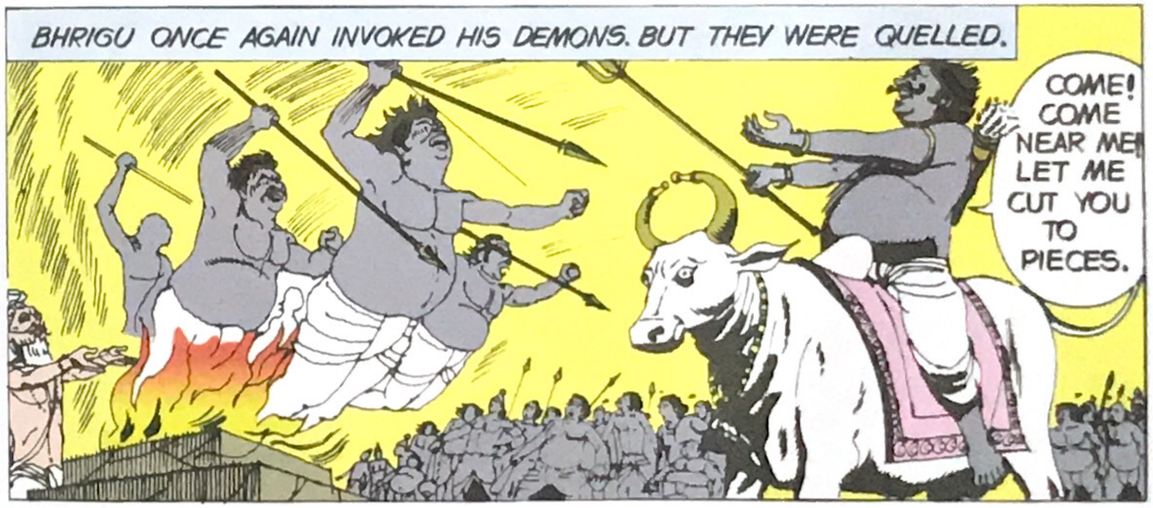
WHILE VIRABHADRA ADVANCED, A NUMBER OF BAD OMENS WERE SEEN BY DAKSHA AND HIS GUESTS. A CELESTIAL VOICE CURSED DAKSHA.
FIE UPON YOUR LIFE NOW, DAKSHA! GREAT MISERY WILL BEFALL YOU.
JACKALS! CAN YOU HEAR THEM HOWL?
E-E-E-E-OW
MY LEFT EYE, ARM AND THIGH THROB. THE THREE BAD OMENS. I AM DOOMED.
THE SACRIFICIAL PLATFORM. IT'S BEING BLOWN UP BY THE WIND. SAVE IT! SAVE IT!

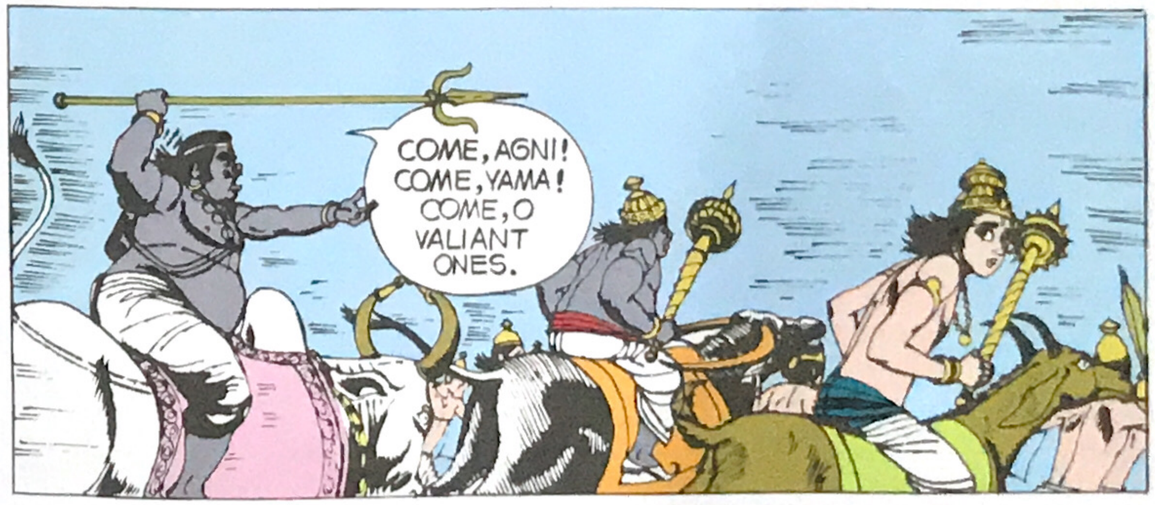

SUDDENLY–
LOOK! SHIVA'S HORDES!
VIRABHADRA!
MAHAKALI!

DAKSHA APPEALED TO INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.
I NOW DEPEND ON YOUR STRENGTH AND SUPPORT ALONE. SAVE MY SACRIFICE AND MY LIFE.

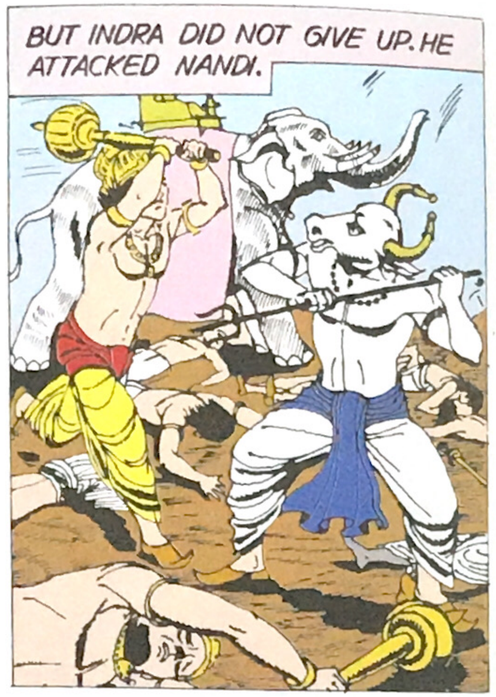
INDRA IMMEDIATELY MOUNTED HIS ELEPHANT AND LED THE DEVAS.


A TERRIBLE BATTLE IT WAS.

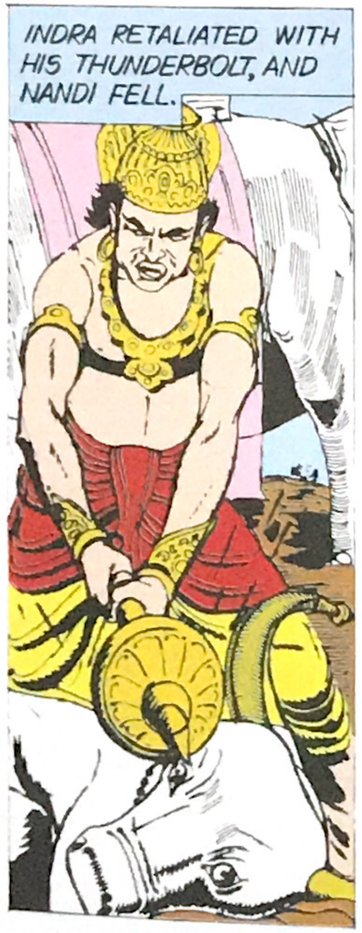

BHRIGU ONCE AGAIN INVOKED HIS DEMONS. BUT THEY WERE QUELLED.
COME! COME NEAR ME! LET ME CUT YOU TO PIECES.

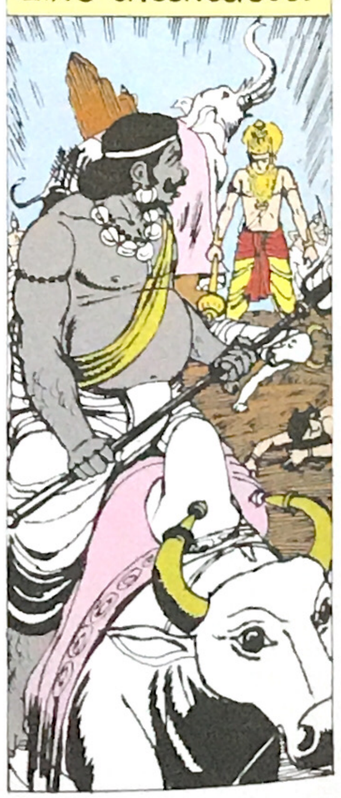

COME, AGNI! COME, YAMA! COME, O VALIANT ONES.

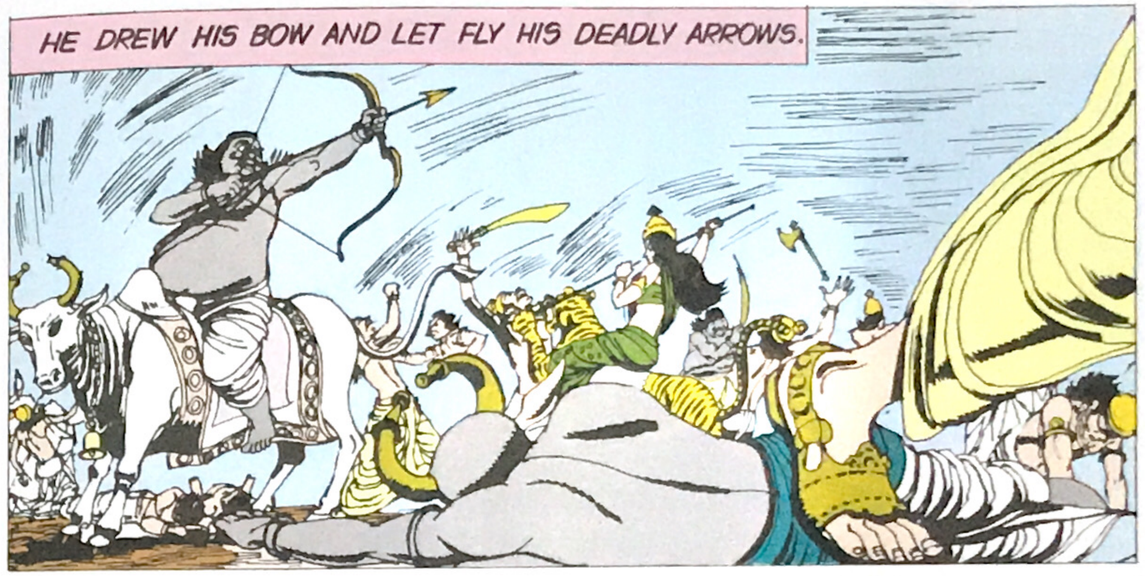
MANY OF THE DEVAS AND CELESTIAL SAGES DESERTED AND FLED TO HEAVEN.
OUR RACE WILL BE WIPED OUT. LET US FLEE.

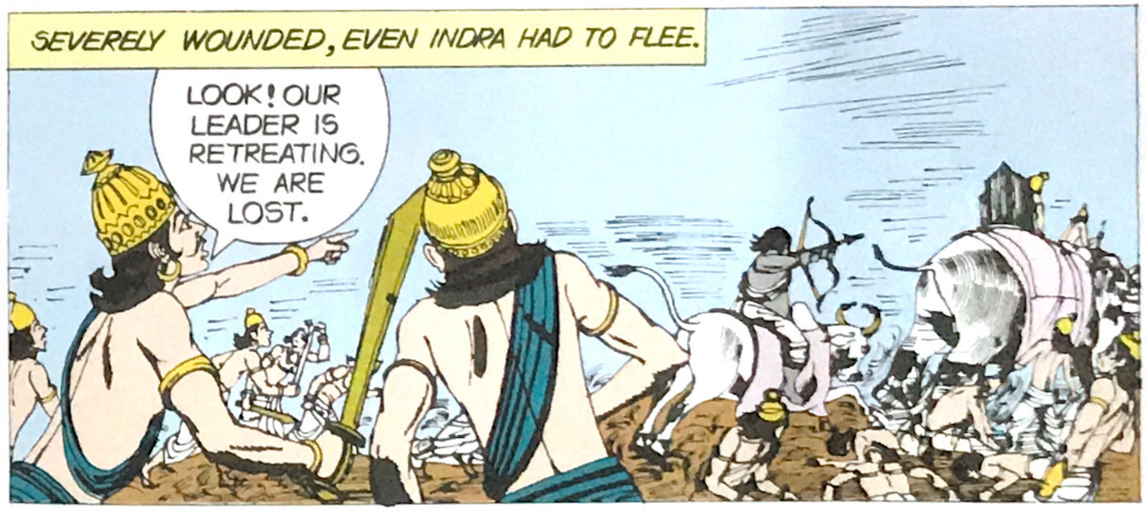

BUT INDRA DID NOT GIVE UP. HE ATTACKED NANDI.

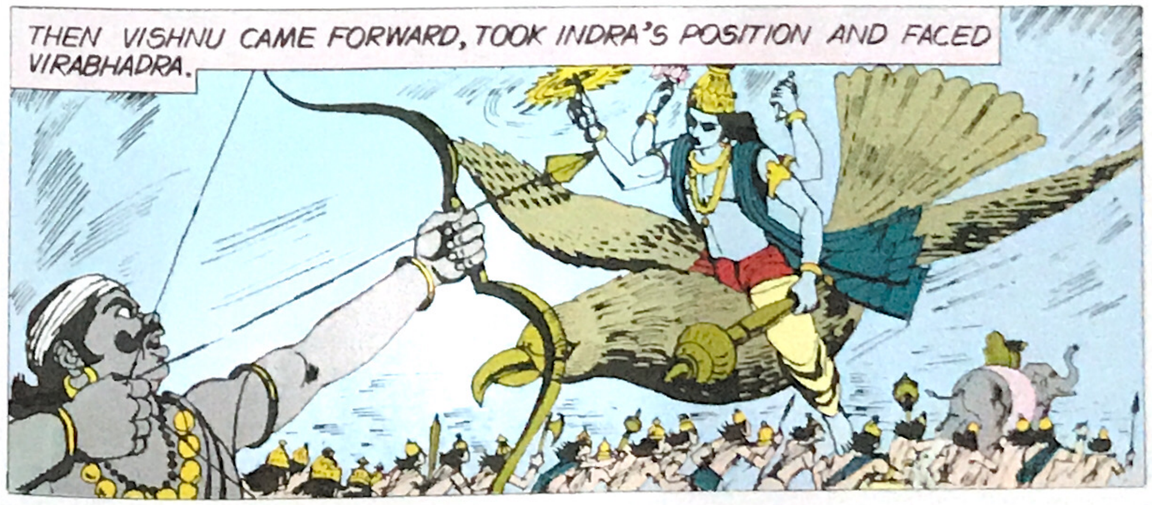
NANDI PIERCED HIM WITH HIS TRIDENT.


INDRA RETALIATED WITH HIS THUNDERBOLT, AND NANDI FELL.


VIRABHADRA WAS FURIOUS TO SEE SHIVA'S FAVOURITE LYING UNCONSCIOUS.

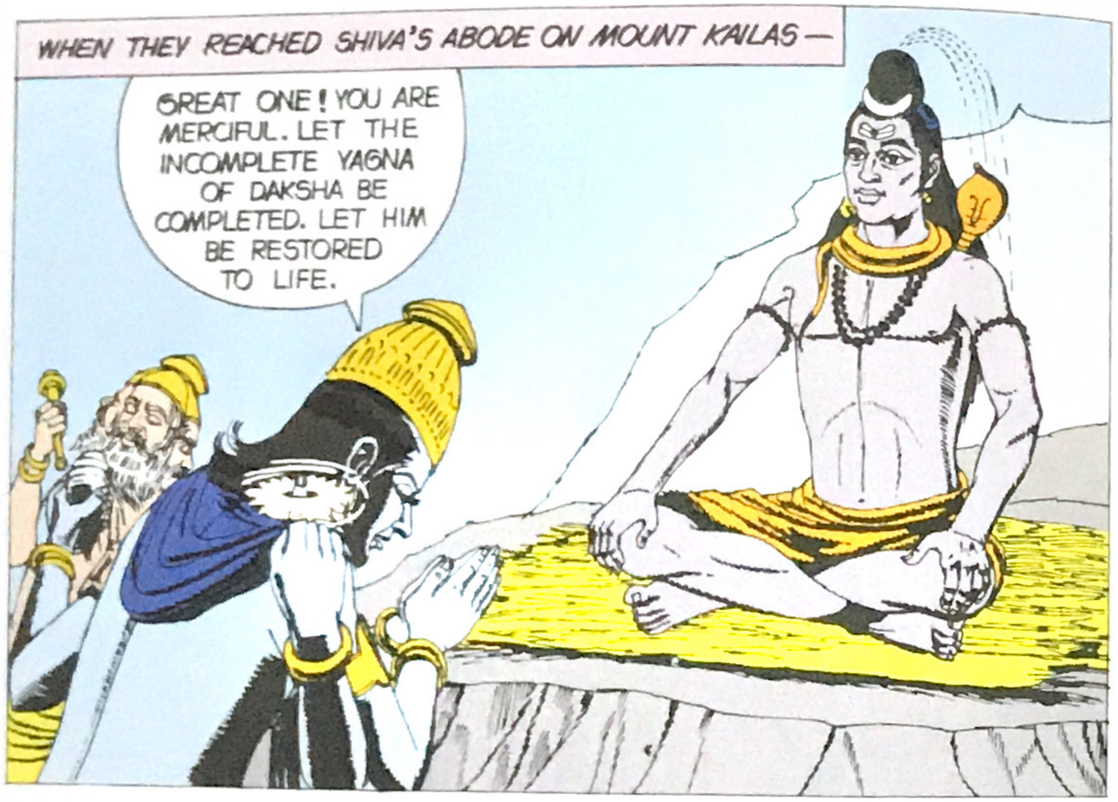

HE DREW HIS BOW AND LET FLY HIS DEADLY ARROWS.


SEVERELY WOUNDED, EVEN INDRA HAD TO FLEE.
LOOK! OUR LEADER IS RETREATING. WE ARE LOST.


THEN VISHNU CAME FORWARD, TOOK INDRA'S POSITION AND FACED VIRABHADRA.

BUT VIRABHADRA CHARGED WITH HIS TRIDENT AND VISHNU FELL UNCONSCIOUS.
LEAVING HIM THERE, VIRABHADRA WENT IN SEARCH OF DAKSHA.
HA! THERE YOU ARE, EVIL ONE!
HE TORE OFF DAKSHA'S HEAD AND...
...THREW IT INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.

HIS TASK ACCOMPLISHED, HE RETURNED TO KAILAS.
AS VIRABHADRA LEFT, COOL FRAGRANT BREEZES BLEW, REVIVING ALL THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN.
BRAHMA CAME UP TO VISHNU.
MY SON MUST BE BROUGHT TO LIFE AND THE YAGNA COMPLETED. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
LET'S GO TO SHIVA'S ABODE AND PROPITIATE HIM.

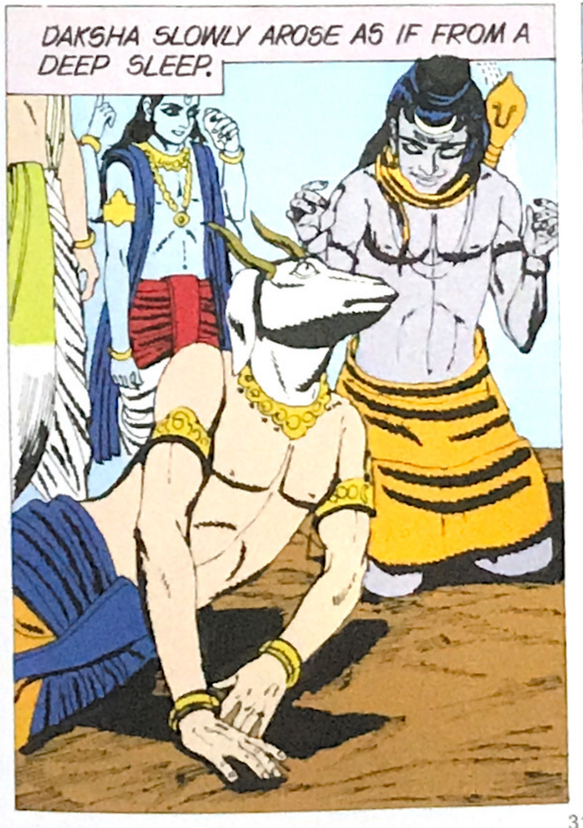

WHEN THEY REACHED SHIVA'S ABODE ON MOUNT KAILAS—
GREAT ONE! YOU ARE MERCIFUL. LET THE INCOMPLETE YAGNA OF DAKSHA BE COMPLETED. LET HIM BE RESTORED TO LIFE.

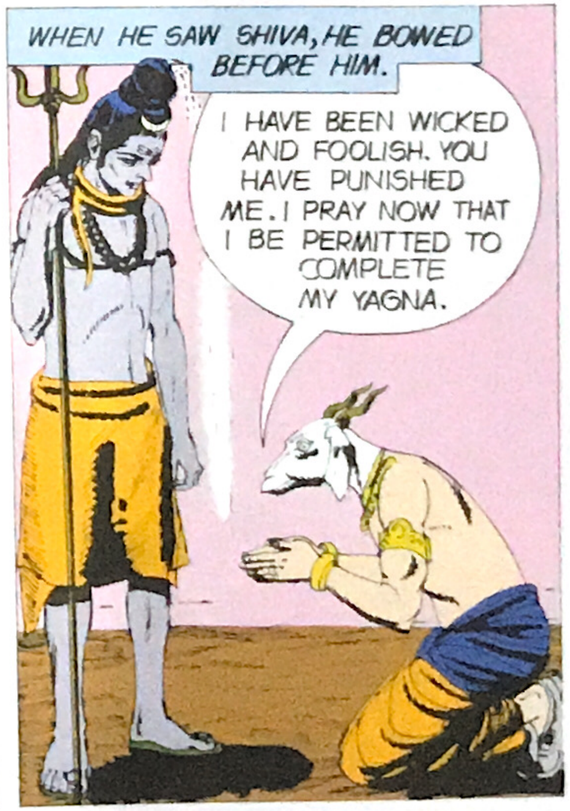
DAKSHA ALLOWED HATE TO BECOME HIS MASTER. IF ONE HATES ANOTHER IT WILL RECOIL ON ONESELF. DAKSHA SHALL BE REVIVED, BUT WITH THE HEAD OF A GOAT.

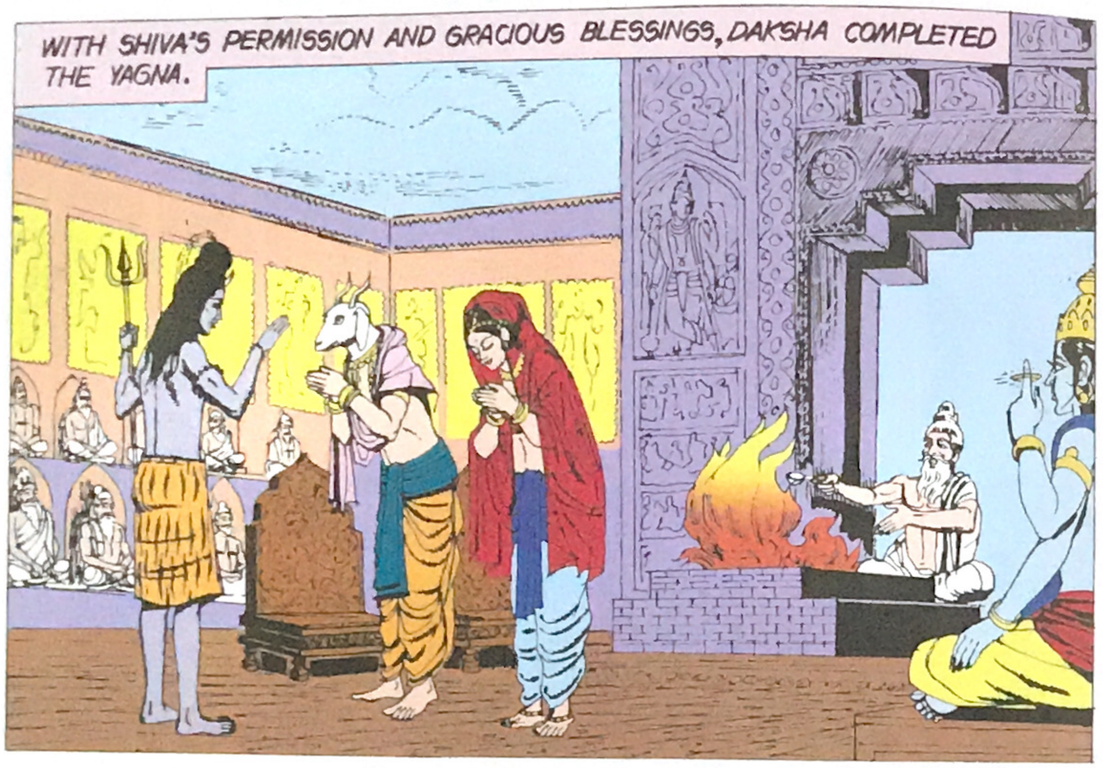
THEN COME TO THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR WITH US, O LORD.
I SHALL.

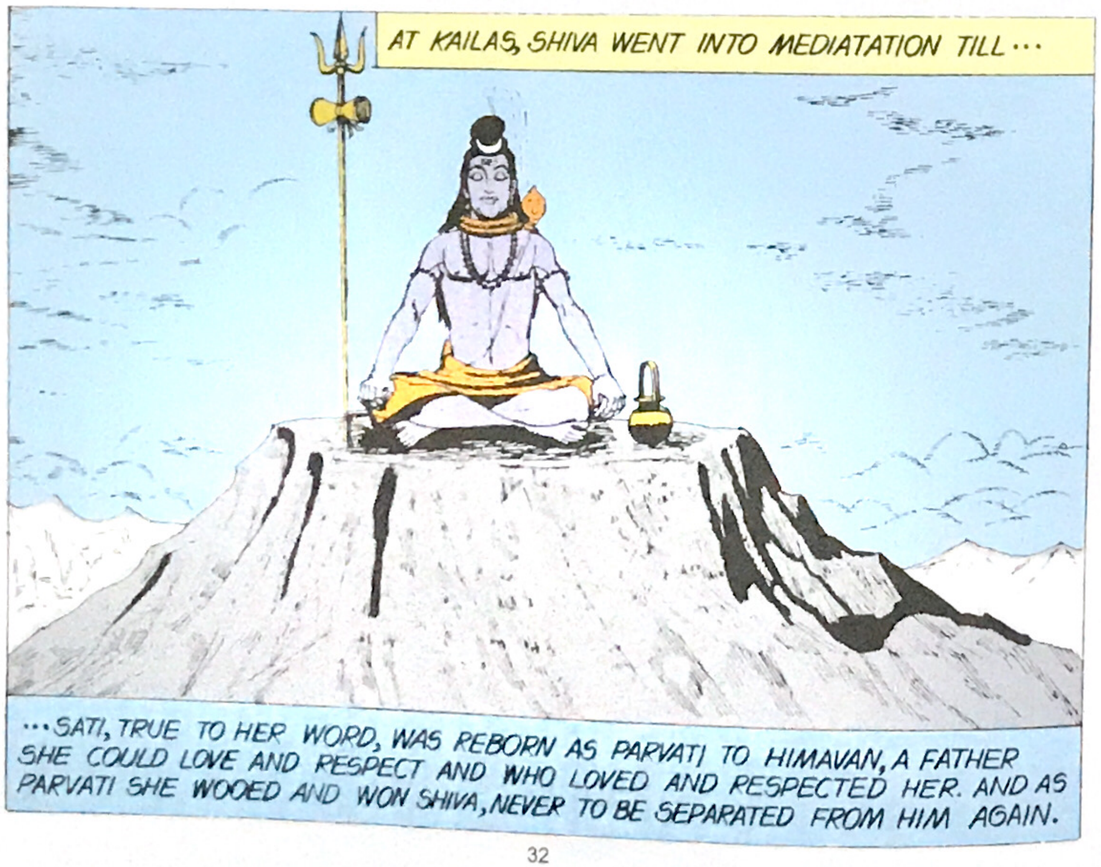
WHEN THEY REACHED THE VENUE OF THE SACRIFICE—
BRING ME THE HEAD OF THE SACRIFICIAL GOAT.

THE HEAD WAS BROUGHT. SHIVA JOINED IT TO DAKSHA'S NECK


DAKSHA SLOWLY AROSE AS IF FROM A DEEP SLEEP.


WHEN HE SAW SHIVA, HE BOWED BEFORE HIM.
I HAVE BEEN WICKED AND FOOLISH. YOU HAVE PUNISHED ME. I PRAY NOW THAT I BE PERMITTED TO COMPLETE MY YAGNA.





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